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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Letter dated 16 December 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a declaration adopted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly at Ankara on 1 December 1994 regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration on Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on 1 December 1994

The Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) has deemed it necessary to bring the following considerations concerning the Serbian aggression and brutality in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the attention of world public opinion:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is one of the sovereign and independent States that emerged after the collapse of the former Yugoslavia and is actually a prominent member of the United Nations, has been subjected to Serb aggression and brutality. With the help and support of Serbia in terms of arms, equipment and manpower, the Serbs have violated the basic principles of international law, attacked this independent and sovereign State to carve up its territories by the use of force and waged ethnic and religious cleansing, killed hundreds of thousands of innocent people, including young children and pregnant women, left millions of people homeless, tortured the people in concentration camps, before the eyes of international public opinion.

While all the values of humanity were being grossly violated in the heart of Europe, first the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), under the command of the United Nations, have seemed to be in search of a solution. However, neither diplomatic initiatives nor military measures which were expected to maintain peace have proved to be fruitful. On the contrary, Serbian brutality has continued unabated.

At this point, there are serious risks for the escalation and widening of the conflict into a general one in Europe. These risks exist because the United Nations peace-keeping forces deployed in the region are unable to maintain peace in the region, let alone protect the innocent Bosnian people and provide security for the United Nations-declared safe areas and even for their own troops. NATO's limited air strikes have by no means been effective. On the contrary, this ineffectiveness encouraged the Serbs, because those air strikes were not actually intended to deter Serbian aggression, but rather to satisfy world public opinion by giving it the impression that they were doing something about the ongoing situation. Finally, since the United Nations and NATO have failed to perform their duties, the Serbs have become more aggressive, the tragedy in Bosnia and Herzegovina has intensified and the tendency for destabilization, chaos and even the spread of armed conflict in the region have further increased.

Today, some circles are trying to stage a similar Andalusian game in Bosnia and Herzegovina. For this reason, TGNA is compelled to bring this game to the attention of world public opinion.

Therefore TGNA calls upon the United Nations, NATO, the Western European Union, the European Union, the European Council, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to take new and effective measures to stop the massacre immediately and to redress the consequences of the territorial acquisition by the Serbs through the use of

force and to place Bosnia's legitimate international borders under international guarantees, to activate the mechanism for the trial of war crimes as soon as possible, to compensate the material and moral damages and losses caused by the aggressor, to declare the aggressor a war criminal and force it to compensate for the losses, and to replace the present UNPROFOR Commander.

We believe that one of the ways to end the ongoing conflict would be to give the Bosnians the opportunity to use their legitimate right to self-defence. And to this end, we consider it essential that the lifting of the arms embargo in favour of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina be immediately put into effect and that it be provided with all the necessary economic, financial, political and military assistance.

We also consider it necessary that the United Nations mechanisms which were mobilized during the Gulf crisis be deployed in the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Therefore, our Government and the prominent United Nations Member States should undertake all necessary initiatives to solve the crisis.

TGNA believes that, should the States Members of the United Nations be allowed effectively to use their rights and authority envisaged under the Charter of the United Nations, a solution to the tragedy in Bosnia and Herzegovina would be found. TGNA invites the States Members of the United Nations to act accordingly.

Within the framework of the statements issued by TGNA dated 12 May 1992 and 12 January 1993 and on the basis of the above-mentioned facts, TGNA, acting on behalf of the Turkish nation, demands that all the efforts and initiatives are continued more effectively in order to put an end to the catastrophe in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to achieve a just and lasting peace in that country, with the inspiration of our great nation, by mobilizing all the capabilities of our people and our State. TGNA deems it necessary to communicate to the Turkish and world public opinion at this most crucial stage that it will support all such initiatives by all means on behalf of the Turkish nation.